



Meeting Tomorrow's Challenge

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September 8, 2014

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall:

On behalf of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA) I write in support of the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act, H.R. 5078.

NWRA represents state associations, irrigation districts, other water providers, and their collective interests in the management of irrigation and municipal water supplies. NWRA members provide clean water to millions of individuals, as well as families, agricultural producers and other businesses throughout the United States. For more than eighty years our members have worked collaboratively with partners at the federal, state and local level to provide water in a manner that provides both economic and ecosystem benefits to communities.

NWRA strongly believes that the successful implementation of the Clean Water Act depends on all parties working collaboratively to address the issues. Water users need certainty and NWRA is committed to working with Congress, the agencies, and other stakeholders to provide a clearly defined, efficient process for all permitting requirements associated with the Clean Water Act. Our members have historically been, and will continue to be supporters of the goals of the Clean Water Act. We fully understand and support the need for keeping our waters safe and clean, not only for purposes of crop production, but also for drinking water, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational uses. To further those goals, NWRA members continue to make necessary improvements to their systems to increase efficiencies, conservation, and environmental protections. NWRA and its members share concerns over the recently released rulemaking proposal concerning the expanding definition of "waters of the U.S." under the federal Clean Water Act.

Like other stakeholders, NWRA members hoped for and urged the agencies to put forth a rule that would at long last provide us with crystal clear definitions and a reasonable

regulatory approach designed to achieve necessary environmental protections without hindering our ability to use and deliver water resources. It was an enormous disappointment to us that the proposed rule only seemed to further confuse the issues raised in notable judicial rulings. And so, H.R. 5078 is necessary even though the collaborative process it establishes further delays the clarity we seek in light of the proposed rule, which as currently written is unworkable and unacceptable.

One of the greatest strengths of the Clean Water Act is the relationship between the States and the federal government. H.R. 5078 builds upon this strength by engaging state, local and federal partners in an open and transparent collaborative process. We believe that this consensus based process will lead to a stronger more effective Clean Water Act that protects the environment and also allows our members to meet the water supply challenges of our nation.

On behalf of NWRA's members I thank you for your attention to the critical water issues facing our nation, and for supporting our members as they continue to be stewards of our nation's water supply and a critical part of the economy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert W. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert W. Johnson
Executive Vice President
National Water Resources Association